



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 6, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: October 5, 2003
CWP WA-CW4003

Winter Wheat Seeding Continues, Emergence Slowed Warm Weather Slowed Potato Harvest in Columbia Basin

Field Crops

Warm, dry conditions continued for another week. Farmers continued to seed winter wheat into dry soils, with emergence considerably slower than normal. Precipitation is needed to support seedling growth. Warm weather in the Columbia Basin has slowed potato harvest, but on the westside, harvest was expected to be complete in a few weeks. Haying was at various stages throughout the state.

Livestock

Rainfall is still needed on many pastures across the state to improve conditions. Cattle producers continued to take cows and calves to market. Range and pasture conditions were 16% very poor, 36% poor, 41% fair, and 7% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

In western Washington, conditions were ideal for sweet corn, pumpkin and apple harvests. Apple quality was mostly good. Blueberry harvest was complete with good yields. On the eastside of the state, sweet corn and onion harvests continued, with processing carrot harvest underway.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	35	45	20	0
Subsoil	25	40	35	0
Irrigation Water	14	18	68	0
Hay & Roughage	4	9	67	20

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	76	72	89	81
Winter Wheat Emerged	40	36	63	61
Potatoes Harvested	60	56	77	65
Corn Silage Harvested	47	44	67	71
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	95	90	48	65
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	99	98	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	2	18	80	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Completion of the sweet corn harvest brought a quiet hush across the rural landscape of the county. Ag producers took advantage of nearly ideal weather conditions to quickly re-seed harvested fields with winter cover crops. The fall foliage of native trees and shrubs, combined with fields of bright orange pumpkins created a tapestry of color to rival the world's greatest paintings. Spring flower bulb growers completed bulb planting, potato growers continued harvesting Yellow Finn potatoes, and Christmas tree growers tip sheared Noble fir trees. The Montesano Chamber of Commerce held their 33rd Annual Farm City Dinner with nearly 150 agricultural producers in attendance. The Fourth Annual Harvest Celebration was held on Saturday, October 4, to showcase the diversity, quality, productivity and overall economic impact of the Grays Harbor County Agricultural Industry. Four farms in addition to Sharon Grange at Porter held open houses for the public.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Typical fall weather occurred during the past week - some gray, some sun, no rain--which has been ideal for corn harvest.

Jefferson: The weather remained unusually dry this fall with record low rainfall and moisture. Haying was complete. It has been a good season for tomatoes and vegetables. Some small brush fires have been reported. The First Annual Farm Tour, October 12, offers on-site educational events at 12 working farms.

Kitsap: Harvest celebrations were underway with many area farms hosting tours for school children during the week and the public on weekends. Pumpkins, along with a variety of squash, were the feature produce.

Pierce/South King: The first week of October was a good week for crops. The weather has been good, and producers have been able to get out onto their fields. There were no unusual situations to report and no report of crop damage due to the weather.

Skagit: Apple growers began picking 7-10 days earlier than usual, and the season will be very short as a result

of cool nights followed by sunny, warm days. Skagit County orchardists were seeing a bumper crop, excellent quality, and higher prices. Potato harvest continued. Fourteen farms were gearing up to receive more than 5,000 visitors at the Annual Festival of Family Farms, with good weather projected.

Snohomish/King: Fall weather was setting in, with several days of heavy fog. Dry weather delayed farmers from completing potato and corn silage harvest. U-Pick pumpkin farms were gearing up for harvest. Pumpkins have ripened early this year. Apple harvest continued with good crops in most areas.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): Temperatures were back to normal for early fall. Most of the weekday mornings were noticeably cooler and foggy. There was no significant rainfall, but morning dew lingered into early afternoon. A few farmers reported lower yields for non-irrigated corn silage. Pumpkin patches and corn mazes were open for visitors all over the county.

Thurston: Another week of dry, unseasonably warm temperatures provided ag producers with ideal conditions for completing fall chores and doing late pasture renovation and seeding. Turfgrass growers were forced to turn irrigation equipment back on due to the lack of soil moisture. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported excellent early sales stimulated primarily by the beautiful fall weather. Christmas tree growers were completing tip shearing and top working of Noble fir trees. Organic and traditional truck gardeners reported excellent sales of fall produce at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

Whatcom: Corn harvest was still underway; however, about 80-90% of the corn was chopped and put in the bunkers. Potato harvest was winding down and should be finished in the next week or two. Apple harvest was underway. The apples were reported to be larger and sweeter than normal because of the warm, dry summer. The growers were about two weeks ahead of schedule. Blueberry harvest was complete and the yield appeared to be good.

Central

Grant: The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 70 percent complete. Sweet corn and onion harvests continued. Processing carrot harvest was underway.

Kittitas: Most of the second cutting of timothy hay was complete. Some were still in windrows. Many producers were weaning calves. About 30 percent sold their commercial calves. Reclamation water was shut

off at the end of the week. Temperatures have remained unseasonably warm, and pastures have kept growing.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 8 to 13 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Planting of winter wheat continued under very dry conditions. Rain is needed for crops and pastures.

Lincoln: Rain was still needed. Not much has changed since last week. Growers were watching for cheatgrass.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Record warm temperatures and no rain continued. Grazing conditions continued to be terrible and over grazed for the third year in a row. Winter wheat seeding continued to be dusted in with very little emergence occurring. Farmers were working on fall work with lots of dust being created.

Stevens: Despite the very dry conditions, winter wheat began to emerge and looked good. Cattle producers continued to take cows and calves to market at good prices.

Walla Walla: Mild weather conditions prevailed, along with warm days and cool nights. Fall plantings were well underway.

Whitman: Winter wheat seeding was completed, but most was seeded into dry soil. Although fieldwork progressed quickly with the dry, sunny days, these conditions have delayed germination and emergence of winter wheat.

Whitman (2nd Report): Conditions remained hot and dry on the Palouse. Central and eastern operations have been busy seeding winter wheat. The western part of the county completed fall seeding with many fields showing newly emerged crops for 2004. Rain is needed.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 6, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	46	73	56	3	42	15	0	0	0.00	-0.59	0	0.68	-1.69	29	6
Everett	49	68	56	3	46	15	1	1	0.00	-0.56	0	0.71	-1.84	28	7
Hoquiam	49	69	58	1	57	7	3	-4	0.02	-1.00	2	2.96	-1.03	74	11
Kelso	50	72	61	5	75	31	9	2	0.00	-0.64	0	0.00	-2.83	0	0
Olympia	44	72	57	4	50	23	2	2	0.03	-0.64	1	1.25	-1.50	45	10
Sea-Tac	48	71	58	2	55	11	5	0	0.01	-0.52	1	0.49	-1.78	22	9
Shelton	44	78	58	3	56	16	5	-1	0.02	-0.82	1	1.14	-2.15	35	10
Tacoma	45	73	58	4	59	21	5	3	0.00	-0.53	0	1.37	-0.95	59	9
Vancouver	51	72	62	7	84	43	15	9	0.00	-0.56	0	1.04	-1.37	43	6
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	38	83	62	10	84	58	14	9	0.00	-0.08	0	0.00	-0.55	0	0
Omak	46	85	67	15	120	96	50	45	0.00	-0.14	0	0.35	-0.54	39	4
Stampede Pass	47	73	60	16	75	68	13	13	0.00	-1.01	0	4.51	0.35	108	8
Wenatchee	50	82	66	10	113	66	43	32	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.45	0	0
Yakima AP	41	85	64	10	102	65	32	25	0.00	-0.07	0	0.05	-0.40	11	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	39	90	65	15	104	84	34	32	0.00	-0.21	0	0.56	-0.72	44	2
Deer Park	34	82	61	9	77	50	16	10	0.00	-0.16	0	1.27	0.28	128	3
Spokane AP	45	80	63	11	96	68	26	20	0.00	-0.14	0	0.58	-0.25	70	3
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	46	85	67	10	122	71	52	39	0.00	-0.07	0	0.21	-0.20	51	1
Moses Lake	43	86	65	8	104	53	34	21	0.00	-0.07	0	0.19	-0.22	46	2
Quincy	47	86	68	13	125	84	55	47	0.00	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.41	15	1
Ritzville	45	87	66	13	117	84	47	40	0.00	-0.14	0	0.43	-0.23	65	2
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	46	88	67	7	122	49	52	29	0.00	-0.07	0	0.24	-0.16	60	1
Pasco	42	84	64	6	100	45	30	18	0.01	-0.06	1	0.25	-0.16	61	3
Pullman	36	84	62	9	83	54	17	12	0.00	-0.23	0	0.92	-0.23	80	5
Whitman Miss.	40	82	60	5	70	30	2	-5	0.00	-0.18	0	1.26	0.46	158	4
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	81	64	9	97	62	27	20	0.00	-0.27	0	1.57	0.18	113	5
Lewiston ID	45	86	68	11	126	71	56	42	0.00	-0.18	0	1.05	0.15	117	4

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2002: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.